

SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR FOOD SECURITY IN IGAD MEMBER COUNTRIES

(Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda)

1. Status of SPFS

The Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) is consistent with the regional food security strategies adopted by the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD). With a participatory approach, the SPFS aims at assisting member countries to increase their food production and productivity on an economically and environmentally sustainable basis and to improve food accessibility for vulnerable populations. The focus is on raising the productivity of small farmers, thereby improving their household food security while, at the same time, contributing to local and national food security. Phase I of the SPFS started in 1995 in Eritrea, Ethiopia and Kenya, in 1997 Sudan, in 1998 in Djibouti and in 1999 in Uganda (not listed as LIFDC). Apart from Somalia (SPFS to be formulated), SPFS is now operational in all IGAD member countries.

2. Site coverage

Based on locally defined priorities, one or more of the four components – water and soil management, crop intensification, farm diversification and constraints analysis – have been implemented at a progressively increasing number of sites. The following table indicates the number of sites covered in each country:

Country	N° of Sites	Country	N° of Sites
Djibouti	6	Kenya	129
Eritrea	35	Sudan	5
Ethiopia	160	Uganda	18
		Total	353

3. Funding

Since 1995, approximately **US\$ 17 million** have been committed for the implementation of the SPFS. Funds have been committed by FAO (**US\$ 4.25 million**), host governments with Unilateral Trust Funds (UTF) arrangements (**US\$ 0.9 million**) and donors (**US\$ 12 million**). The following table indicates total funds committed for each member country and main source of funds:

Country	Funds Committed (US\$ 000)	Main source of funds	Country	Funds Committed (US\$ 000)	Main source of funds
Djibouti	4 139	FAO/GOV/IDB/IFAD	Kenya	4 307	FAO/GOV/IFAD/UNDP
Eritrea	1 890	FAO/GOV/ITALY	Sudan	2 201	FAO/GOV
Ethiopia	4 112	FAO/GOV/ITALY	Uganda	356	FAO

4. South – South Cooperation

South-South Cooperation (SSC) started in 1998 and is now well established in two IGAD member countries: Eritrea and Ethiopia. Experts and technicians coming from more advanced

developing countries have provided a significant contribution to the implementation and extension of phase I of the SPFS. Since 1998, 59 experts and technicians in different fields of expertise (small-scale irrigation, horticulture, aquaculture, small-scale fisheries, apiculture, etc.) have been involved in field training of local technicians and farmers. The objective of the SSC is to stimulate innovation and to transfer simple low-cost technologies between countries. The status of the SSC in IGAD member countries is as follows:

Host Country	N°Expert in field	Target	Source Country
Djibouti	29	29	Egypt
Eritrea	29	104	India
Ethiopia	30	30	China
Total	88	163	

This training undertaken with SSC support has involved a large number of farmers, as in Eritrea (2 000 farmers) and Ethiopia (600 farmers). Requests to participate to the South-South Cooperation programme have been received from Uganda, Sudan and Kenya. FAO has initiated actions to identify source developing countries and formulate the terms of agreements.

5. Impact of the SPFS on national food programmes

At national level, the governments of several countries are reflecting the strategy used in the SPFS in their national programmes of food security, as in Ethiopia where the experience obtained from the SPFS has been incorporated in the Government's Extension package for the dry land production programme. Moreover, the encouraging results of the SPFS in its early stages have led governments including Ethiopia and Djibuti to extend the coverage of the programme with funding from national resources.

At farmer level, the simple low-cost technologies in use during phase I have contributed to significant increases in crop production and yields at many sites. For example, data from the SPFS in Ethiopia have shown that sorghum yields attained by participants have increased from 11 q/ha to 19.41 q/ha. In addition, diversification into small short-cycle livestock and small-scale fisheries has increased revenues for women and improved the quality of household food consumption.

6. Prospects

It is expected that, in keeping with their commitments for halving the number of hungry people by 2015, most countries of the sub-region will seek to progressively extend the SPFS to cover a large number of sites. During the extension of phase I, as planned in Eritrea and Ethiopia, activities are being broadened to include agricultural marketing, rural finance and credit, support services skills, and capacity building amongst farmers. As the pilot programmes are extended to an increasing number of sites, governments may wish to build on this and other relevant experience and formulate a second phase programme at national level with three main components: 1) agricultural sector policy reform; 2) a medium-term investment programme; 3) the identification of bankable projects to expand projects initiated in phase I.